# REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

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| Date of entry in Register: | 27 September 1999 |
| Name of applicant/court: | Secretary for Internal Affairs |
| Applicant to the Labelling Body: | Not Applicable |
| Title of Publication: | Chapter 2 "The Prick" |
| Other Known Titles: | Email To Irene |
| Director: | Not Applicable |
| Producer: | Not Applicable |
| Publisher: | Not Stated |
| Author: | Not Stated |
| Format: | Computer Printout |
| Country of Origin: | Not Stated |
| Language: | English |

**Components of film originally examined:** Not Applicable.

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| Feature: | Running time: |
| Trailers: | Running time: |
| | Total Running time: |

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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**SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:**

The computer printout entitled *Chapter 2 "The Prick"* also known as *Email To Irene* has been classified as:
Unrestricted.

The computer printout deals with matters of violence and cruelty. The publication is an A4 page of text, a small chapter of a larger work which describes the poisoning of a woman who has not apparently consented to being poisoned. The woman is informed of her situation and reminded of previous conversations where she is said to have described her own cremation. The narrator entertains the woman with video recorded images of burial sites which have the exact elements necessary for decomposition. The actions of the narrator are considered to be significant acts of the infliction of serious physical harm and cruelty. However, the publication does not provide detailed descriptions of the murder and process of dying. This lack of detail does go some way to mitigate the ideas behind the content.

The format of the publication, a computer printout of a chapter of a story sent over the Internet is a significant consideration. Computer technology allows easy reproduction and distribution of such material via national and international telecommunications networks. While the publication is ostensibly a private communication, its electronic medium does create a wide availability.

Consideration has been given to the relevant provisions of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBR Act) as they relate to this publication. The matters of violence and cruelty raised in this publication are not likely to make its availability injurious to the public good and consequently no restriction is placed on the publication. The freedom of expression contained in the NZBR Act is not limited by this classification, therefore no further consideration need be given.

OFLC Ref: 9900279